

From: Leonard Dudzinski
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 11:06am
Subject: A proposal to deal with Microsoft

US Department of Justice,

Like many Americans, I suppose, I have been pondering the Microsoft case currently being tried by the US Department of Justice, and thinking about what solution I would favor. I have an idea for how the DOJ could deal with Microsoft that I have not heard discussed as one of the options, and I am grateful that the US Department of Justice has opened this forum to share ideas on the case. I strongly believe that the ruling is correct that Microsoft's monopoly was gained illegally and hurts consumers. Microsoft has clearly demonstrated the willingness to wield its monopoly power to benefit itself at the expense of others. Microsoft's monopoly power must be ended. I also strongly believe that, especially during these these times of war, it is not in the US governments best interest to be reliant on one computing platform for its function and national security. Recent events have demonstrated that one computing platform can be devastated by hackers or viruses, while others are immune. My proposed remedy is this: rule that the Federal Government must support multiple computer platforms, operating systems, and software suites in the interest of national security and in support of the free market.

While the US DOJ does not have the power to dictate the market in a free market economy, it does have the power to affect how the Federal government responds to it. A DOJ ruling that it is not in the governments best interest to be dependant upon one supplier for most of its computing resources, and that the government must foster competition in the computer marketplace where possible, would be fair, effective, and within its powers. To that end, the President should issue an executive order that the US Federal Government will support multiple computer platforms, operating systems, and productivity software suites, and no single computer platform, operating system, or suite of software will hold greater than a 50% market share within the federal government (The Federal market share percentage could be debated). This ruling would create an immediate demand for Microsoft's competition within the Federal Government, and with all those who deal computationally with the Federal Government, which, I would think, is a large part of the computer market as a whole. Thus, this ruling would have the effect of destroying Microsoft's power to monopolize the market while preserving the company and its products. This ruling would have the additional effect of driving the computer industry towards standards to improve interoperability between platforms, operating systems, and standard software suites, which benefits all consumers. Microsoft would then be forced to play fair with its competitors products and standards.

I welcome comments on the idea.

Respectfully,

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Concerned US Citizen

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